

BLM-Montana Dakotas Tribal Consultation Program

An Overview and Summary
of Tribal Consultation and Tribal Partnership Efforts

Tribal Consultation

“Federally recognized Indian tribes are sovereign nations exercising government-to-government relations with the United States. Where the public lands are concerned, these relations usually take the form of legally required consultation.”

The General Authorities requiring tribal consultation include:

- Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)
- E O No. 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations”
- E O No. 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites”
- E O No. 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments”

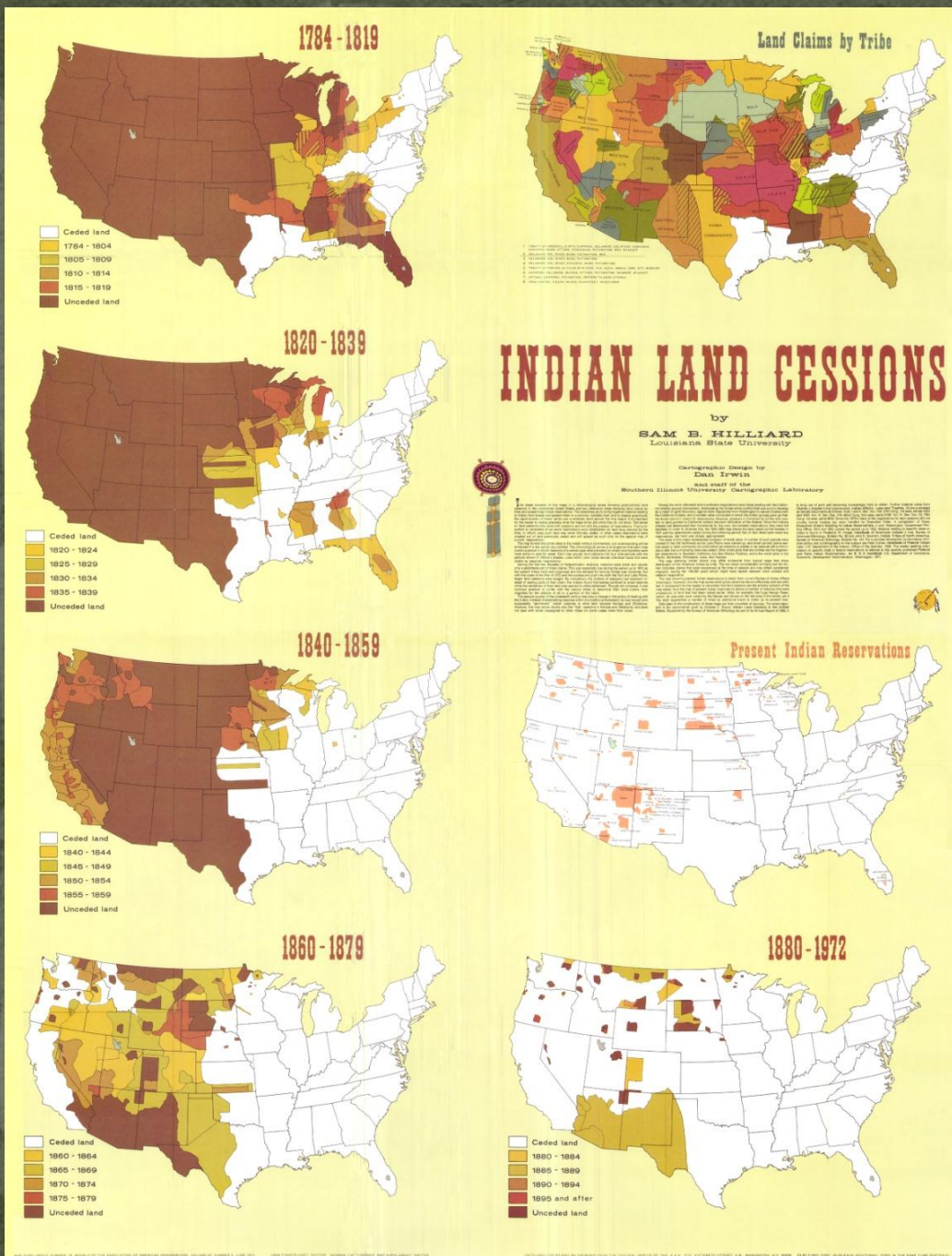
Tribal consultation required under Cultural Resource Authorities include:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

Federal Trust Responsibility

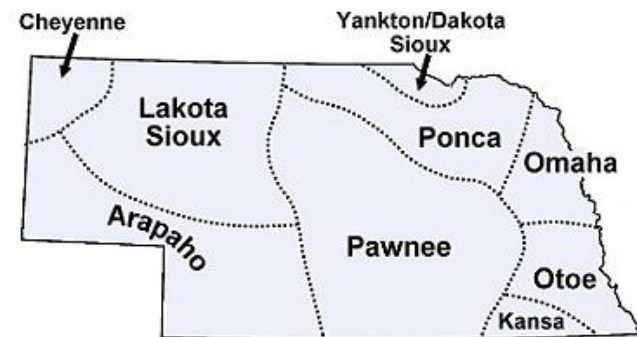
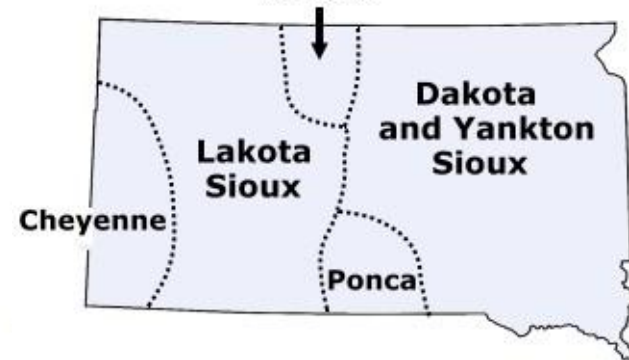
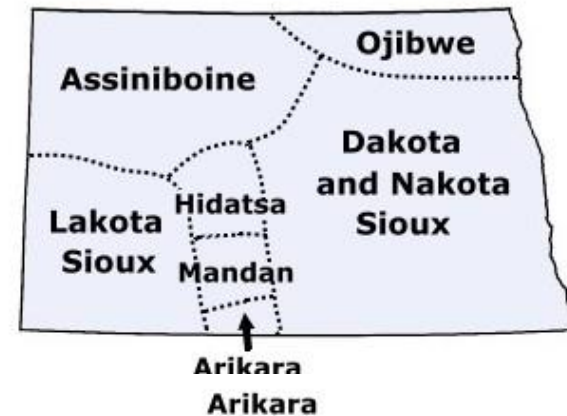
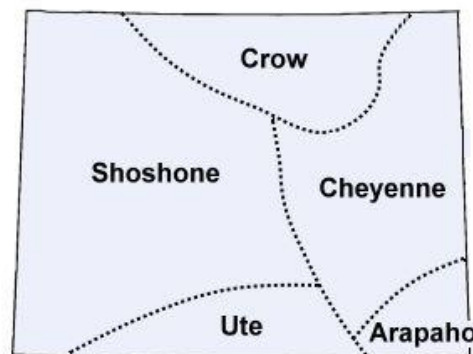
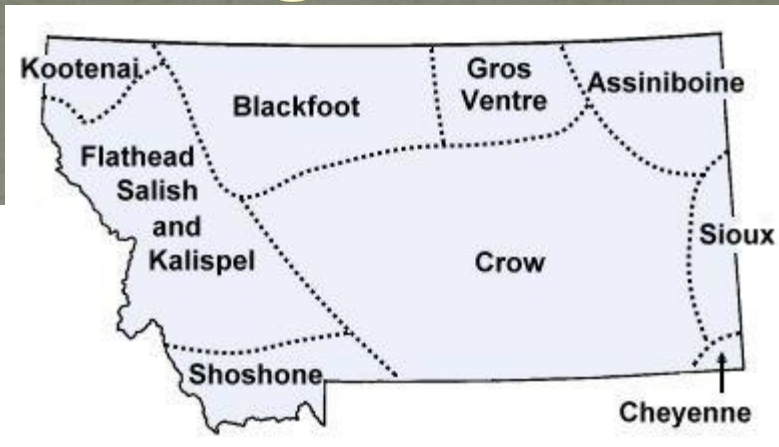
Federal trust responsibilities emanate from Indian treaties, statutes, Executive orders, and the historical relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

This responsibility is rooted, in large part, in the treaties through which tribes **ceded portions of aboriginal lands** to the United States government in return for promises to protect tribal rights as self-governing communities within the reserved lands and certain rights to use resources off of the reserved lands.



- By 1881, Indian landholdings in the United States had plummeted to 156 million acres.
- By 1934, only about 50 million acres remained (an area the size of Idaho and Washington) as a result of the General Allotment Act* of 1887.
- During World War II, the government took 500,000 more acres for military use.
- Over one hundred tribes, bands, and Rancherias relinquished their lands under various acts of Congress during the termination era of the 1950s.

Aboriginal Territories



MT/DAKs BLM - Background

- MT/DAKs – Confluence of Three Cultural Areas:
Great Plains, Columbia Plateau, Great Basin
- Reservations
 - Montana has 7 Reservations, 11 Different Tribes
 - South Dakota 8 Reservations all Sioux (Lakota, Nakota, Dakota)
 - North Dakota 4 Reservations, 6 Different Tribes
- Aboriginal Territory
 - Additional 7 Tribes on 5 Reservations in Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska and Washington
- MT/DAKs has 16 of 32 Tribal Colleges in the US

Vision Statement for Tribal Consultation

“Within five years, the MT/Dakotas BLM will be an organization exercising an active tribal consultation and collaborative process that emphasizes proactive collaborative engagement. This collaboration will insure meaningful tribal input and involvement early in our decision making process, while also striving to cultivate partnerships with tribal governments in the management of natural and cultural resources of importance to the health and welfare of their tribal membership.”

Goals for Tribal Consultation

- Assure that federally recognized tribal governments, whose traditional uses of public land might be affected by a proposed BLM action, will have the opportunity to participate in the decision, and that the decision maker will give tribal concerns proper consideration early in the decision-making process.
- Foster a good working relationship between the BLM and tribes through the identification of opportunities for collaboration and partnership in the management of public land resources.
- Insure that BLM Line Officers and Staff clearly understand roles and responsibilities for tribal consultation, and have a rudimentary understanding of the history and culture of the tribes they will be consulting with.

MT/DAKs Tribal Partnerships

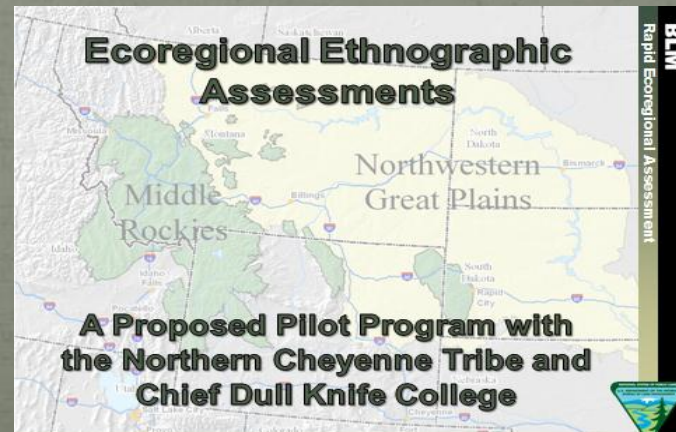
Assistance Agreements in Place:

- Bridging the Divide: A Natural and Cultural Resources Field Camp for Tribal High School Students (Shoshone-Bannock Tribe)
- MT/DAKS Intertribal Workshop Facilitation (Crow Tribe)



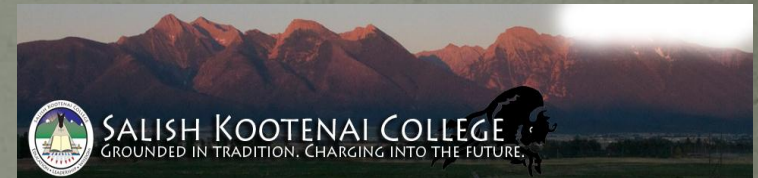
MT/DAKs Tribal Partnerships (Cont.)

- Internship Program with Tribal Colleges (Salish Kootenai College – Missoula Field Office)
- Bridging the Divide: Expansion (Chief Dull Knife College)
- Ecoregional Ethnographic Assessments (Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Chief Dull Knife College)



Future Partnership Proposals

- Dry Head Overlook -Wild Horse Range Project (**Little Big Horn College, Crow Tribe**)
- Online and Distance Learning Program: Certificate in Cultural Resource Management (**Salish-Kootenai College**)
- Bridging the Divide Expansion (**Blackfeet Community College**)



“Landscapes of Rediscovery: Carl Bodmer among the Blackfeet”

Future Partnership Proposals (Cont.)

- Montana Conservation Corps – American Indian Veteran Program (Crow Tribe)



- Native Plant Conservation Partnership Program (Little Big Horn College)

